REMARKS

Amendments to the Specification

The specification is amended to support the limitation
5   sited in claims 12 and 26 stating that the center switch element
is larger than the first positive and negative switch elements.
No new matter is entered by this amendment.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 112

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Claims 3, 5-6, 13, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112,
second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to
particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter
which applicant regards as the invention.

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Claim 3

In claim 3, the recitation of "decreasing size" in line
3 is indefinite because the combination of claims 1 and 3 does
20   not define the sizes of the first, second and third switch
elements. Therefore, it is unclear which of the switch elements
are switched off first. Clarification and correction are
required.

25   Response:

Claim 3 is amended to define the relative sizes of the first
and second positive side switch elements, and the third switch
element. This amendment clarifies which switch element is
30   switched off first. No new matter is entered by this amendment.

Claim 5-6

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In claim 5, the recitation of "the smallest switch element" in line 2 lacks proper antecedent basis. Claim 6 is indefinite because of the technical deficiencies of claim 5.

Response:

Claims 5 and 6 are amended to indicate that the second positive switch element or the third switch element is switched off gradually. The name "smallest" having no antecedent basis is deleted. No new matter is entered by this amendment.

Claim 13

In claim 13, the recitation of "decreasing size" is indefinite because claim 11 does not define the sizes of the switch elements. Therefore, it is unclear which of the switch elements are switched off first. Clarification and correction are required.

Response:

Claim 3 is amended to define the relative sizes of the first and second positive and negative side switch elements, and the third switch element. This amendment clarifies which of the switch elements are switched off first. No new matter is entered by this amendment.

Claims 18-19

In claim 18, the recitation of "the smallest switch element" lacks proper antecedent basis.

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Response:

Claims 18 and 19 are amended to indicate that "the second
5   positive switch element or the third switch element" is
switched off gradually. The name "smallest" having no
antecedent basis is deleted. No new matter is entered by this
amendment.

10 **New Claims**

Claims 28-29

New claim 28 is added to claim that the first positive side
15 switch element is the largest switch element and is switched
off first by the sequence controller before the second positive
side switch element and the third switch element. All
limitations of claim 28 are definite limitations which were
indefinitely recited in the original claim 3 (i.e. embodiments
20 of Fig.7 and 8). As such no new matter is entered.

Similarly, new claim 29 is added to claim that the first
positive and negative side switch elements are of
substantially the same size and are larger in size than the
25 second positive and negative switch elements and the center
switch element, and the center switch element is switched off
first and then the first positive and negative side switch
elements are switched before the second positive and negative
side switch elements and the third switch element by the
30 sequence controller. All limitations of claim 29 are definite
limitations which were indefinitely recited in the original
claim 13 (i.e. embodiment of Fig.12). As such no new matter
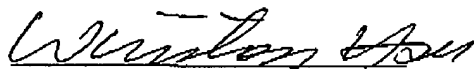
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is entered.

Allowance of Claims

5　　　Since claims 3, 5-6, 13, and 18-19 are amended to overcome
the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and the
newly added claims 28-29 add no new matter and are dependant
on claims found allowable, the applicant hereby requests
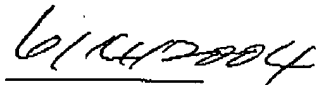allowance of the application.

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Sincerely,

15　　*Winston Hsu*　　　　　　　Date: _6/14/2004_
Winston Hsu, Patent Agent No. 41,526
P.O. BOX 506
Merrifield, VA 22116
U.S.A.
20　e-mail : winstonhsu@naipo.com.tw
(Please contact me by e-mail if you need a telephone
communication and I will return your call promptly.)

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